Shun dwellers in cities of Uttar Pradesh

1757. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minsiter of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of slum dwellers in Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, Agra, Varanasi, Bareilley and Mefrut of Uttar Pradesh and what is the percentage of slum dwellers of these cities;

(b) what assistance has been given by the Central Government to provide to the slum dwellers the basic civic amenities; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed to spend a per capita minimum amount on them if so, what is the amount fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH), (a) As per the figures supplied by the State Government, the identified slum population in 1981 of the following cities was as under:

City/Town	Slum population (in lakhs)	% age of total population of the city
1'. Lucknow	2.85	28.3
2. Kanpur	6.14	37.5
3. Allahabad	1.88	28.9
4. Agra	2.24	29.9
5. Varanasi	2.60	32.6
6. Bareilley	0.83	18.5
7. Meerut	1.80	33.6

(b) and (c) The Scheme of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums, which aims at provision of basic amenities like drinking water supply, community baths and latrines," street lighting etc., is in the State sector. The per capita ceiling cost under the Scheme is Rs. 300. Funds for the scheme are provided in the State Annual Plans. During 7th Plan a physical target of covreage of 8 lakh slum dwellers in Uttar Pradesh has been fixed at an estimated cost of Rs. 24 crores. In addition, under the World Bank assisted Kanpur Urban Development Project 20,000 slum households are being covered at an estimated cost of $ 8.7 M and under the Uttar Pradesh Urban Development Project an amount of$ 8.3 M has been set aside for covering slum households in the whole State of the Uttar Pradesh.

Recommendations of the Press Council *ol* India regarding selection of Journalists for officially sponsored visit

1758. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Ministries and Departments of Government have not been informed about the recommendations of the Press Council of India regarding selection of press persons for officially sponsored visits;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof;

(c) whether several Ministires and Departments have been regularly violating these recommendations by choosing journalists who have been writing pro-Government reports while covering these visits;

(d) whether Government have taken note of inclusion of such sponsored visits by non-media and non-accredited correspondents; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to stop these practices and honour the recommendations of the Press Council of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c) The Press Council's guidelines for selection of journalists

on officially sponsored visits were forwarded to concerned departments for such action as deemed appropriate. Since the Press Council's guidelines are only advisory in nature and not binding on the Government, the question of violation does not arise.

Such visits are conducted to help better projection of the governmental policies and programmes. These are not intended to be a measure of patronage to the Press. On the contrary, the Government is interested in ensuring that developmental activities in various fields are witnessed by as many news media representatives as possible in order to get wider coverage. These conducted tours are, therefore, organised to help project the achievements of the Government and cannot be regarded as a manupulation of news. The manner of selection of journalists, rests with the Government as in the case of any sponsorship and non-inclusion of certain journalists cannot be regarded as a restrictive measure on the Press. Notwithstanding this, in any case, the selection of journalists is made on a nondiscriminatory basis and efforts are made to cover as wide a representation of the media as possible.

(d) and (e) Newspapers sometimes nominate their journalists for these visits who are not accredited.

Visit of Journalists to China before the visit of P.M.

1759. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minsiter of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had sent two teams of Delhi based Journalists to China one before the visit of Prime Minister and the other a large contingent of over 60 Journalists along with die Prime Minister;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government had advised the Prime minister's Secretariat to honour the guide-lines made by the Press Council of India in.the selection of the Journalists accompanying the Prime Minister and other tours/visits organised by the various Ministries and Departments ; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) Lists of Journalists who went to China before the visit of the Prime Minister and those who went alongwith the Prime Minister are given in the enclosed statements I and II *(See* below).

(c) and (d) The Press Council's guidelines for selection of Journalists for officially sponsored visits were forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office, though PM's visits do not fall under the category of sponsored visits. Moreover, these guidelines are only of an advisory nature and not mandatory.

Statement • I

List of Journalists who went to China prior to J'rime Minister's Visit

	Shri L.K.	**Sharma**	**Times of lndia**
2	**Shri U.K.**	**Katyal**	**Hindu**
I	**Shri V.K. Kutty**	**Madhavan**	**Mathmbhumi**
4	**Shri Mathur**	**Rajendra**	**Nav Bharat Times**
5	**Shri S.**	**Vis warn**	**Tribune**
6	**Shri Ml**	**Akbar**	**Telegraph**